



**Letter Circular**

**Date:** 5th February 2020

**Ref. No.:** DES 08/2020

**To:** Heads of School (State and Non-State)

**From:** Director General, Educational Services

**Subject:** Influenza Season, Novel Coronavirus

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**Influenza Season, Novel Coronavirus**

The Ministry for Education and Employment in collaboration with the Ministry for Health would like to bring the attached notice to your attention.

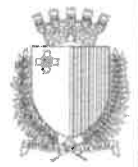
Kindly distribute to parents/legal custodians attached letter on this regard.

**Influwenza Stagionali, Novel Coronavirus**

Il-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol b'kollaborazzjoni mal-Ministeru għas-Saħħa jixtiequ jwasslu dan il-messaġġ għall-attenzjoni tagħkom.

Napprezzaw li tgħaddu l-ittra meħmuża lill-ġenituri/gwardjani legali kollha.

**Maria Mc Namara**  
**Director General**  
**Directorate for Educational Services**



Dear Parents/legal custodians,

Similarly, to other influenza seasons, we are now in the peak of influenza with many cases of influenzas apart from common colds.

In order to minimize the spread of respiratory infections, children should be kept at home if they are sick and have a fever or flu like symptoms. The best way to protect oneself from getting ill with respiratory viruses is to:

- Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, and if not available, use alcohol-based hand disinfectant;
- Cover your mouth when coughing with a tissue, or sleeves;
- Cover your nose when sneezing with a tissue, or sleeves;
- Dispose of used tissues immediately;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth before washing your hands;
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

As for all infectious diseases, all children/students and staff who are sick should be sent home and should remain at home until symptoms resolve and follow family doctor's instructions.

As you are aware from the media, a novel new respiratory virus has been discovered which originated in China, the *Novel Coronavirus*. This new virus is spreading in China where there is human to human transmission. Several countries have cases which in the majority are imported cases from China whereby persons who were exposed to the virus in China and developed symptoms later. At present there have been no confirmed cases in Malta. The Public Health authorities are carrying out all the necessary measures to detect any possible cases as early as possible so cases will be contained.

If you require further information on this virus, you can access the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit (IDCU) within the Superintendence of Public Health, Ministry for Health website on:

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/Pages/temp/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>

In the current situation, the risk of ongoing transmission of *Novel Coronavirus* is only in China and hence the risk of exposure is if a person was in China or had exposure to a case. If your child has visited China within the past 14 days, contact the IDCU on Tel. no 21324086.

We encourage parents/legal custodians to follow basic prevention measures, refrain from sending sick children to school throughout the scholastic year to avoid spread of infectious disease and to allay any fear by seeking advice of reputable sources of information.

Ms. Maria Mc Namara  
Director General  
Educational Services



Gheziez Ġenituri/Gwardjani Legali,

Bhalissa ninsabu f'wiehed mill-istaġuni meta l-influwenza hija fl-aqwa tagħha, b'hafna każijiet t'influwenza barra każijiet ta' rjiħat komuni.

Biex jitnaqqas it-tixrid t'infazzjonijiet respiratorji, tfal morda, b'temperatura għolja u b'sintomi tal-influwenza għandhom jinżammu d-dar. Sadanittant, l-aħjar mod kif wiehed jista' jipproteġi lilu nnifsu milli jimrad b'virus respiratorju huwa billi:

- Jaħsel idejha bis-sapun u jdum jagħmel dan għal madwar 20 sekonda u jekk ilma u sapun ma jkunux disponibbli, juża diżinfettant tal-idejha b'bażi alkoħolika;
- Jgħatti haqqa b'tissue jew bil-komma meta jisgħol;
- Jgħatti mniehru b'tissue jew bil-komma meta jagħtas;
- Jarmi tissues użati immedjament;
- Jevita li jmiss għajnejha, imniehru u haqqa qabel jaħsel idejha;
- Jevita li jkun f'kuntatt ma' nies li huma morda.

Bhalma jintalab dejjem għal mard li jittiehed, tfal/studenti jew impjegati li huma morda, dawn għandhom jintbagħtu d-dar u jibqgħu d-dar sakemm is-sintomi jtilqu u għandhom isegwu istruzzjonijiet tat-tabib tal-familja.

Kif kulhadd jaf permezz tal-midja, gie skopert virus respiratorju ġdid li origina fiċ-Ċina, in-*Novel Coronavirus*. Dan il-virus ġdid qiegħed jinfexx fiċ-Ċina fejn hemm kuntatt bejn bniedem u ieħor. Diversi pajjiżi għandhom każijiet li fil-maġġorparti huma każijiet impurtati miċ-Ċina ta' persuni li kienu esposti għall-virus fiċ-Ċina u żviluppaw is-sintomi aktar tard. Fil-preżent għad m'hemm l-ebda każ ikkonfermat f'Malta. L-awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa Pubblika qegħdin jieħdu l-miżuri kollha neċessarji biex jindividwaw minn kmieni kemm jista' jkun każijiet biex hekk jinżammu taħt kontroll.

Jekk wiehed jehtieg aktar informazzjoni dwar dan il-virus, wiehed jista' jaċċessa l-*Unit għall-Prevenzjoni u l-Kontroll ta' Mard li Jittiehed (IDCU)* fi hdan is-Supretendenza tas-Saħħa Pubblika fil-Ministeru tas-Saħħa fuq is-sit:

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/Pages/temp/Novel-coronavirus.aspx>

Kif inhi s-sitwazzjoni bhalissa, ir-riskju ta' trasmissjoni kontinwa tan-*Novel Coronavirus* huwa biss fiċ-Ċina u għalhekk ir-riskju huwa jekk persuna kienet iċ-Ċina jew kienet esposta għal każ. Jekk it-tifla/tifel tiegħek żar iċ-Ċina f'dawn l-aħħar 14-il ġurnata, ikkuntatja lill-IDCU fuq in-numru tat-telefon 21324086.

Ninkoraġġixxu wkoll lilkom il-ġenituri/gwardjani legali biex matul is-sena skolastika kollha ssegwu miżuri bażiċi ta' prevenzjoni, ieqfu milli tibagħtu l-iskola lil uliedkom morda biex tevitaw it-tixrid ta' mard li jittiehed u biex tneħħu kull biża' billi tfittxu l-parir minn sorsi t'informazzjoni ta' fuq min joqgħod fuqhom.

Sa. Maria Mc Namara  
Direttur Ġenerali  
Servizzi Edukattivi